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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/901,576 Confirmation No. 7170
Applicant : Kazuo SAITO et al.
Filed : July 11, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1745
Examiner : Raymond Alejandro
Dkt. No. : K&Y-157-114
Cust. No. : 20374

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 25, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 23, 2003

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 25, 2003. A petition for a one-month extension of the period for responding to the Action is being filed concurrently herewith.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider the remarks that follow.